

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

#### **I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 2 - 8, 10 - 29, and 31 and 32 are currently pending. With this Response, claim 10 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 16, 17, 21, 23 and 29 are amended. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 12, lines 2 - 25 of Applicants' specification.

#### **II. Objection to Drawings**

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Specifically, the Examiner finds that the flap parts and related sensor as claimed in claims 13 and 16 are not illustrated by the drawings. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 13 claims a device for sorting laundry pieces as claimed in claims 29, 11 and 12, which includes a funnel for transferring laundry pieces that has a flap floor comprising a plurality of flap parts that open and close to transfer the laundry pieces to a transport device. Claim 16 claims the device of claim 13, further comprising a sensor at each flap part for recognizing a predetermined volume of laundry pieces on the flap parts.

As described for example at page 24, lines 6 - 16 of Applicants' specification, each of funnels 24, 26 as illustrated in FIG. 1 has a flap floor 32 comprising two flap parts 28, 30 that open downwardly to dispense pieces of laundry in the funnels 24, 26. Sensors 34, 36 are respectively

located adjacent to the flap parts 28, 30 which are of the light barrier type and thereby recognize laundry pieces resting on flap floors 32.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that FIG. 1 illustrates flap parts 28, 30 and related sensors 34, 36 as claimed in claims 13 and 16, and respectfully request that the objection to the drawing be withdrawn.

### **III. Acknowledgment of Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants thank the Examiner indicating that claims 10, 13, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 32 are objected to as each being dependent on a rejected base claim, and that each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims.

As noted below, Applicants cancel claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend independent claims 17, 23 and 29 to essentially include the elements of allowable claim 10, and respectfully submit that each of amended independent claims 17, 23 and 29 are allowable. Applicants submit that the objection to canceled claim 10 is now moot. As claims 13, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 32 each depend from one of allowable independent claims 17, 23 and 29, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 32 are allowable and request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

### **IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103**

Claims 2, 3, 4, 11, 17, 18, 23 - 26, 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0032805 to Lawandy et al. ("Lawandy"). Claims 5



**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below once he has reviewed the proposed amendment if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted

By



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